



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 4782**
Satoshi HASHIMOTO et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2006_0370A
Serial No. 10/573,567 : Group Art Unit 1794
Filed March 27, 2006 : Examiner Jennifer A. Chriss

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the reference listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of the reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed.

1a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:

- a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,

- b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
 - e. the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5. A foreign patent office search report citing the reference is enclosed.
6. COMMENTS

JP '320 discloses a winding index similar to Sato et al. (US 2003/000429) cited in the outstanding Official Action. JP '320 discloses dry heat relaxation treatment and fails to disclose an extremely short-period wet heat relaxation treatment as recited in claim 6. (Patentability of this subject matter has been admitted by the JPO Examiner in the corresponding Japanese Application.)

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-0975, with the EXCEPTION of deficiencies in fees for multiple dependent claims in new applications.

Respectfully submitted,

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March 17, 2009